HELP ?

Rand McNally's Dynamic Trip-Taking Duo

PC World Online; San Francisco; Aug 18, 1998; Angela Navarrete, PC World;

Start Page: 1
Subject Terms: Software
 Travel
Product Names: Rand McNally **Tripmaker Deluxe** 1999Rand McNally StreetFinder Deluxe 1999
Companies: Rand McNally & Co
Abstract:

*Rand McNally's **TripMaker Deluxe** 1999 and StreetFinder Deluxe 1999 are reviewed.*

Full Text:
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Whether you're headed across town for a business appointment or across the country on a family vacation, Rand McNally's got you covered. With TripMaker Deluxe 1999 and StreetFinder Deluxe 1999--the latest editions of its blockbuster travel planning and mapping programs, each priced at $50--you'll never need a cheap gas station map again. I tried preproduction versions of both.

Like its predecessors, the new TripMaker uses a wonderfully simple interface to help you plan and map your journey. You identify your destination, the places you'd like to stop along the way, the type of road you prefer, and so on. TripMaker generates an itinerary and a map, then analyzes your trip with a new routing wizard called RoadSense. This automatically steers you around potential trouble spots such as busy metropolitan areas or construction sites (you can update the latter information at any time via downloads from Rand McNally's Web site).

In my tests, the software mapped capably and its tools were easy to use, with just one gotcha: Because its routes are based on the driving hours you specify--from, say, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.--your driving day might end in the middle of nowhere. Don't forget a tent! Or better yet, figure out where you want to stop each night and instruct the software accordingly.

While TripMaker is designed to help you plan entire vacations or long-haul business trips, StreetFinder focuses on navigating within cities. Its Trip Organizer feature finds hotels, appointment addresses, and restaurants; it can also track such business trip details as contacts, itineraries, and expenses. But if you want address-to-address driving directions, StreetFinder must retrieve them from the Web.

For the complete story, see the upcoming October issue of PC World magazine.

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JP	7-55484	March 1995

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A Planning Method Combining Rule-Bases and Optimization

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12	Flake, Wayne L. , et al.	☐
13	Robinson, Gary B.	☐
14	Webber, David W. , et al.	☐

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP408106492A
PAT-NO: JP408106492A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 08106492 A
TITLE: TRIP PLANNING SUPPORT DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: April 23, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
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NAME   COUNTRY
HITACHI LTD   N/A

APPL-NO: JP06243590
APPL-DATE: October 7, 1994

INT-CL_(IPC): G06F017/60

ABSTRACT:
PURPOSE: To determine the usable day and time of facilities or a
recommended
day and time for leaving by matching the day and time of an
arrival at a
destination based upon a road trip time with the usable day and
time of the
trip facilities.

CONSTITUTION: A trip planning support processing part 2 inputs
information
regarding roads and guide information on the facilities from an
information
providing system 4 and stores them in a data base 3, and also
inputs the latest
information from the information providing system 4 at need and
updates the
data stored in the data base 3. The trip planning support
processing part 2
when requested to support trip planning from an input/output
device 6 together
with information on a leaving point, a leaving expected date and
time, and
target trip facilities retrieves the data base 3 to calculate the
date and time
of an arrival at the target facilities and inquires the
utilization state of

the target facilities from an external facility reservation
system 5.   After
the processing ends, the trip planning support processing part 2
informs the
input/ output device of the leaving recommended date and time,
the arrival date
and time, the utilization state of the facilities, etc.

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP408106492A
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the arrival date
and time, the utilization state of the facilities, etc.

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP409212563A
PAT-NO: JP409212563A
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 09212563 A
TITLE: TRIP PLAN GENERATING DEVICE

PUBN-DATE: August 15, 1997

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:
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NAME   COUNTRY
TOYOTA MOTOR CORP   N/A

APPL-NO: JP08016241
APPL-DATE: January 31, 1996

INT-CL_(IPC): G06F019/00; G06F017/60 ; G01C021/00

ABSTRACT:
PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make use of facilities at optimum time
with ease by
storing visit recommendation times by the purposes of visits to
the facilities,
and retrieving the visit recommendation time corresponding to the
purpose of a
visit and generating a trip plan.

SOLUTION: A tourist inputs information on facilities that he or
she likes to
visit through an input part 18. At this time, the trip days, a
starting point,
a return point, etc., are also inputted. Then the purpose of the
visit to the
inputted facilities is inputted. A retrieval part included in a
plan
generation part 12 retrieves the visit recommendation time
corresponding to the
purpose of the visit to the facilities from a data base 14.
After the visit
recommendation time is retrieved, the plan generation part 12
acquires basic
stay hours by the facilities which are held in a storage part 20.
 Then the
plan generation part 12 calculates an optimum movement route on
the basis of
the inputted starting point, visit facilities, and return point.

At this time,
the needed time is calculated from distance information, traffic history
information, etc., from the data base 14 to specify the start tie and return
time.

	U	☑	Document ID	Issue Date	Pages	Title	Current OR	Current XRef	Retrieval Classif
1	☐	☒	US 6202051 B1	20010313	28	Facilitating internet commerce through internetworked auctions	705/27	705/26 ; 705/37	
2	☒	☒	US 6119095 A	20000912	16	System for planning and revising an itinerary based on intended travel time and expected consumption time	705/5		
3	☒	☒	US 6119094 A	20000912	8	Automated system for identifying alternate low-cost travel arrangements	705/5	705/6 ; 707/1 ; 707/10	
4	☒	☒	US 6021398 A	20000201	40	Computer implemented methods and apparatus for auctions	705/37	705/26 ; 707/104 ;	
5	☒	☒	US 6018715 A	20000125	8	Automated travel planning system	705/5		
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13	☒	☒	US 5790426 A	19980804	29	Automated collaborative filtering system	702/179	705/10 ; 705/27 ; 705/6	705/6
14	☒	☒	US 5331546 A	19940719	31	Trip planner optimizing travel itinerary selection conforming to individualized travel policies	705/6		705/6

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP409212563A
PAT-NO: JP409212563A
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PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make use of facilities at optimum time
with ease by
storing visit recommendation times by the purposes of visits to
the facilities,
and retrieving the visit recommendation time corresponding to the
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visit and generating a trip plan.

SOLUTION: A tourist inputs information on facilities that he or
she likes to
visit through an input part 18. At this time, the trip days, a
starting point,
a return point, etc., are also inputted. Then the purpose of the
visit to the
inputted facilities is inputted. A retrieval part included in a
plan
generation part 12 retrieves the visit recommendation time
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purpose of the visit to the facilities from a data base 14.
After the visit
recommendation time is retrieved, the plan generation part 12
acquires basic
stay hours by the facilities which are held in a storage part 20.
 Then the
plan generation part 12 calculates an optimum movement route on
the basis of
the inputted starting point, visit facilities, and return point.

aspect an itinerary preparing system for preparing a travel plan
based on input
information, comprising:

an input means for entering travel plan information which
includes an
intended travel time taken from start to end of a trip;

an acquiring means for obtaining an expected consumption time
of the trip in
accordance with the travel plan information;

an excess/shortage determining means for comparing the
intended travel time
with the expected consumption time of the trip to determine an
excess or
shortage of the expected consumption time relative to the
intended travel time;
and

a plan changing means for revising the itinerary, when the
excess/shortage
determining means finds an excess or shortage, by changing at
least one of the
intended travel time and the expected consumption time so that
the excess or
shortage can be offset.

Note that the travel plan information refers to such
information as time and
position information, and other associated information required
for preparing
the itinerary. Also note that the intended travel time from
start to end of
the trip represents a certain time period in the itinerary. For
example, if
the trip starts from and ends at home, the intended travel time
equals time
taken after starting from home till returning back home. In a
case where the
trip starts at home and ends at a given place or vice versa, the
intended
travel time equals time taken to travel between home and the
given place. That
is, the intended travel time represents the total time to
complete the trip,
while the expected consumption time of the trip represents time
estimated to be
consumed by transportation, staying at visiting places, and so
on.

intermediate locations and destinations). As such, it is difficult to know the
timewise relationship between individual pieces of information in the
itinerary, and it is difficult for a user to understand an entire overview of
an itinerary. For instance, if an itinerary includes only one visiting place
and the system assures the possibility of reaching the place, a situation may
arise where one cannot complete the trip within the user-intended total time
due to a traveler's overstay at the visiting place. In other cases, where the
itinerary includes a plurality of visiting places together with time
restrictions such as a specific arrival time or length of stay at each visiting
place, and therefore the flexibility of the itinerary is decreased, it may not
be possible to incorporate all visiting places within the user-intended total
time of the trip, or it is likely that the same time slot may be specified as
the arrival time at multiple places. Consequently, the itinerary becomes
imperfect. When this occurs, the itinerary needs to be revised. However, a
problem is that one cannot easily determine what part of the itinerary should
be revised. As such, itinerary preparation becomes complicated.

   Worse, it is likely that adjustment of the itinerary is incorrect and the
visiting place where one wants to visit most may be adjusted inappropriately or
inadvertently deleted. As a result, preparation of the itinerary becomes even
further complicated and time-consuming.

   SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

   The present invention is made to solve the above problems, and aims to
provide an itinerary preparing system capable of preparing a complete travel
plan which efficiently incorporates desired visiting places.

   In order to achieve the above object, the present invention provides in one

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the needed time is calculated from distance information, traffic history
information, etc., from the data base 14 to specify the start tie and return
time.